

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

US MISSION NATO PRIORITY 2147

JCS PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USDELMC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

S E C R E T ATHENS 3229

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJ: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: FOURTH MEETING OF HELLENIKON
SUBGROUP

REF: ATHENS 3227

1. AT SUBGROUP MEETING APRIL 26, GREEKS MODIFIED THEIR
PREVIOUS POSITION THAT ONLY 200 US MILITARY PERSONNEL COULD
REMAIN AT HELLENIKON AIR BASE. GREEK REPRESENTATIVE, COL.
TRIANDAPHYLLOS, SAID HE AND OTHER GREEK REPRESENTATIVES HAD
BEEN INSTRUCTED TO VISIT AIR BASE, EXAMINE FUNCTIONS BEING
CARRIED OUT THERE, AND THEN TODRAFT REPORT MAKING
RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO ACTUAL NUMBER OF US PERSONNEL NEEDED
TO CONTINUE ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS. TRIANDAPHYLLOS ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT WHILE HIS GROUP WOULD DO ITS BEST TO RELATE US
FUNCTIONS MORE REALISTICALLY TO PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS, FINAL
DECISION WOULD BE MADE BY POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS

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WHO MIGHT COME UP WITH PURELY ARBITRARY NUMBER. LIKELIHOOD

WAS THAT NUMBER WOULD BE ABOVE 200, BUT TRIANDAPHYLLOS WOULD NOT ESTIMATE WHAT THE NEW FIGURE MIGHT BE. WHAT WOULD BE HELPFUL, GREEKS SUGGESTED, WOULD BE CONCRETE PROPOSAL FROM US AS TO SIZE OF "SUBSTANTIAL" REDUCTION US HAD IN MIND.

2. US REPRESENTATIVE (LEDSKY) SAID IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE NOT TO ENGAGE IN BARGAINING OVER NUMBERS. US WAS PREPARED TO MAKE "SUBSTANTIAL" REDUCTIONS IN THREE AREAS: (A) REDUCTION BASED ON THE DEPARTURE OF HOMEPORTED PERSONNEL; (B) RELOCATION OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES TO OTHER AREAS IN ATHENS; (C) CUTS IN STRENGTH OF OPERATIONAL AND SUPPORT UNITS; AND (D) CONSOLIDATION/RELOCATION OF ACTIVITIES ON BASE. ACTUAL NUMBERS COULD NOT BE PROVIDED UNTIL THERE HAD BEEN FURTHER STUDY IN WASHINGTON WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER ROUND II HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

3. AGREEMENT WAS THEN REACHED TO PROVIDE GREEK TEAM WITH VISIT AND IN-DEPTH BRIEFING AT HELLENIKON ON MONDAY, APRIL 28, AT COMPLETION OF WHICH THERE WOULD BE FURTHER SUBGROUP MEETINGS TO CONSIDER WHETHER DISCUSSIONS COULD BE CARRIED FURTHER AT THIS STAGE.
KUBISCH

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